

During Butch's 37 years at Producers Rice Mill alone, he has marketed the equivalent of 1.3 billion bushels of rough rice, which translates to about 20 million metric tons of both milled and brown rice.

In 1981, when U.S. rice acreage exploded from 2 million acres per year to just under 4 million acres, new market access for U.S. rice was crucial in supporting prices for U.S. rice farmers. Butch was one of the critical pioneers at the time who dramatically expanded the export demand for U.S. rice.

Butch was directly involved in the opening of new export markets for U.S. rice in the Caribbean, Iran, Iraq, and Nigeria. Butch also expanded U.S. rice exports in Europe, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa.

With nearly 50 percent of the U.S. rice production required to be exported, the fruits of Butch's efforts not only enhanced the returns of the farmers he worked for, but the new export demand for U.S. rice also benefited the market prices of all U.S. rice farmers. In all, Butch has logged nearly 9 million air miles on behalf of the U.S. rice industry.

From humble beginnings as an office errand boy, Marvin "Butch" Baden, through hard work and perseverance, has earned and achieved the highest level of respect and appreciation within the U.S. rice industry.

HONORING DON NEWTON

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Don Newton, a proud 40-year member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, Local 56, of West Chicago, Illinois—and a friend of mine—who passed away recently.

There was a time when workers fighting for their rights were met with lead pipes and management-paid gangs. Today, they fight for their rights with picket lines, elections, and the rule of law and with icons like Scabby, the inflatable rat.

Scabby the Rat, a towering, inflatable mascot of labor protests, was dreamed up by Don Newton and fellow organizer Ken Lambert during labor disputes of the 1990s. Today, Scabby can be seen throughout the country, reminding us of the constant struggle for fair wages and safe working conditions and the importance of unity and solidarity in labor disputes.

On the front lines of protests, as workers fight to hold on to the protections they need to maintain fair wages and a healthy middle class, Scabby the Rat and the memory of Don Newton will never be forgotten; and you can now follow Scabby the Rat on Wikipedia and Facebook.

IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, this week, President Obama announced a nuclear agreement with Iran that falls far short of the commitments he made to the American people.

This agreement simply does not stop Iran's quest for nuclear weapons. It lifts an arms embargo against the world's number one state sponsor of terror. It also opens the possibility for Iran to acquire ballistic missiles capable of reaching anywhere in the world.

The President's agreement ends sanctions, frees up hundreds of billions to help Iran's economy, and will allow an unrepentant Iran to finance terrorism around the world, undermining the safety and security of the United States, Israel, and our allies. Never forget Iran is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of American servicemembers, from Beirut to Baghdad, and beyond.

The initial "anytime, anywhere access" standard for monitoring Iran's nuclear program is replaced with "managed access," where we have to ask permission before entering suspected facilities.

This deal does not make the world safer. Far from ending the potential of a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, it all but guarantees one.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA: WHAT'S NEXT?

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of the Make It In America plan and working to strengthen America's great manufacturing comeback. One of the biggest threats to that comeback is the growing skills gap in manufacturing, which is why I and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have joined together to lead the Congressional Investment in America's Workforce Caucus.

Through initiatives like Make It In America and the CIAW Caucus, we are working to expand apprenticeships and on-the-job training, increase employer-provided educational benefits, and provide tax credits for businesses who provide critical workforce training.

Some of the efforts in my district are already seeing results. According to yesterday's Detroit Free Press, Wayne County, in my district, is leading the Nation in new manufacturing jobs added last year. Three other counties in the State of Michigan were added as well.

If we keep this up and if we continue to work to close that manufacturing gap, we can make it in America.

SENATE DEMOCRATS ARE PUTTING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY IN JEOPARDY

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concerns over Senate Democrats standing in the way of funding our national security. Once again, we find ourselves in a position where Democrats in the Senate are attempting to extort higher Federal spending on their social agenda in return for adequately funding our troops.

To be clear, this House passed a spending bill with the same proposed spending limits that the President of the United States asked for, but Senate Democrats are using the 60-vote rule to prohibit this appropriation measure from coming to the floor.

General Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, recently said:

Since 2011, global disorder has significantly increased while some of our comparative military advantage has begun to erode.

We have seen this before, Mr. Speaker, where our security becomes a political bargaining chip. This is irresponsible, and I respectfully request my colleagues in the Senate to abandon these tactics. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to stop this dangerous game and support the Defense Appropriations bill.

HOLDING THE VA ACCOUNTABLE

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, our veterans have earned the care they are due to receive through the Department of Veterans Affairs. So many men and women of the military put their lives on the line every day to ensure the safety and security of our country.

Unfortunately, bad news coming out of the Department continues to pile up. This week, it was revealed that nearly one-third of the 847,000 veterans with pending applications for health care may have already passed away.

This means, at some point in their lives, over 200,000 men and women who served our country bravely weren't able to access the care that they were promised. These benefits were earned through service, but due to mismanagement, they remained in an endless waiting line.

Mr. Speaker, we can and must do better for our Nation's servicemen and -women. We must continue to institute reforms at the VA to ensure that our veterans receive proper care.

WESTERN WATER AND AMERICAN FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2898.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?